

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert J. Small and Xiaowei Shang  
Assignee: EKC Technology, Inc.  
Title: Chemical-Mechanical Planarization Using Ozone  
Serial No.: 09/783,069 Filing Date: February 13, 2001  
Examiner: Le, Thao P. Group Art Unit: 2818  
Docket No.: M-9727 US

San Francisco, California  
January 4, 2002

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to a restriction requirement mailed on December 12, 2001 and setting a shortened statutory period for response which expires on January 12, 2002. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. However, prior to such reconsideration, entry and consideration of the preliminary amendment submitted herewith are requested.

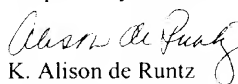
**REMARKS**

The Examiner has required restriction between an Invention I and an Invention II identified in the action. Invention II is provisionally elected with traverse. Applicants traverse on the ground that it is not believed to be too burdensome to search and examine the entire application. MPEP 803. Applicants have noted the Examiner's classifications of the identified Inventions I and II, but in view of the small number of pending claims, believe that the burden of searching same is not serious or onerous. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is thus earnestly requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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